



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, *January* (London).—Signor Cocchi announces the discovery of a human skull in the lower beds of the Lower Post-pliocene strata in Italy. This lower portion consists of lacustrine clays of great thickness, with layers of peat towards its superior margin; it contains bones of the Mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*), *Cervus euryceros*, *Bison priscus*, and a species (probably new) of the Horse, *Equus*; it has also yielded stone implements and a human cranium, the latter from the plain of the Aretino. Whether this deposit be termed Lower Post-pliocene, or anything else, there seems little room for doubt that the skull was imbedded contemporaneously with the remains of the Mammoth, etc., and that Man lived in Italy contemporaneously with those animals.—The term *Gregarinæ* applied to the Chignon Fungus (see NATURALIST, vol. 1, p. 379), is most inappropriate, as is admitted both by Drs. Fox and Beigel. It is the *Pleurococcus Beigelii*. The *Gregarinæ* are indubitably animals, and are internal parasites.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

BOTANY.

VITALITY OF SEEDS.—Dr. Gray, in his “How Plants Grow,” says, “The stories of seeds growing, which have been preserved for two or more thousand years with Egyptian mummies, are not to be believed.” M. Figuiet, in his work on “The Vegetable World,” also cautions his readers against accepting certain statements of earlier writers to the effect that various seeds have been known to germinate after having been deposited in Roman and Celtic tombs nearly two thousand years. He then says, “We must not forget to speak of those wonderful seeds of wheat found in the tombs of ancient Egypt. It is now acknowledged that in this affair some one must have abused the confidence and credulity of the travellers. A variety of wheat called Mummy-wheat is common, it is true, among farmers; but no authentic fact justifies its name.” From a paper recently drawn up by the Rev. Dr. Marks, of Meadville, Pa., at the request of a member of “The Natural History Society of the Meadville Theological School,” I condense the following statement, using as far as possible the language of the original paper.

When Dr. Marks was in Thebes, in the winter of 1856, the Arabs were dragging forth from the mummy-pits great numbers of mummies. He saw them tear off the linen wrappings, in the folds of which were many pieces of papyrus, covered with Coptic characters. Very often in the mummies' hands were found grains of wheat, dura, flax, and the nut of the palm-tree. From the hand of one was thrown out the seed-cup of a